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## CIA and NSA

By William Buckley Jr.



THE HERE hasn't been so much high dudgeon around the place since Senator McCarthy came to New York and proposed turning the United Nations building into a little red schoolhouse. The notion that American money should be spent to keep American students on the straight and narrow, instead of just foreign students, has caused widespread dismay.

A few observations the burden of which is that Mr. Richard Helms, Mr. Allen Dulles and their predecessors, who made available the \$200,000 annual subvention, are not necessarily the most

stupid or the most venal men to come along in postwar history:

1) The world-opinion business has been big in international affairs ever since the close of the Second World War. Copious attention is given to the attitudes of the world's youth. The communists, sensing this, deployed their legions at the international conferences beginning in the middle forties, and succeeded in giving the impression to the world's nitwitters that the youth of the universe were united in their hatred of the West.

Now it would have been very nice indeed if American students had, on their own initiative, competed successfully with the resources expended by the communist governments and so demonstrated the vigor of our second strike system at every level. But the answer is they are not that resourceful. Any more than American athletes are resourceful enough to compete against the kept athletes of the communist world — so that hidden subsidies, in violation of the Olympic rules, have been an accepted part of international sport. Add to this that the temper of the day calls for the government to pay the student for the exertion of breathing. The same people who are shocked that the government should pay some of the students' bills in the NSA were shocked at Governor Reagan's proposal that the government should pay less than all the students' bills in California.

2) The NSA is now, and has been thruout its lifetime, pretty much of a self-constituted organization, the property of little clusters of left-liberal ideologues who convene annually for the pleasures of denouncing traditional American institutions. It is correct that, after a long dark night of struggling, the NSA at its founding convention repelled a boarding party sponsored by the communists.

But as if the effort had exhausted their reserves of traditionalism, the NSA went on from there to pass resolutions roughly comparable to those passed every year by the Americans for Democratic Action, and sometimes even more so, as when the NSA at some point or another conveyed the jolly greetings of American students, in some connection or other, to Fidel Castro. The notion that Mr. Dulles turned these chappies into reactionaries is utterly ignorant. The CIA's general rule that the anti-communist left is the horse to play was not violated in this case.

The students in control of the NSA have got away with their ultraism for the very simple reason that the overwhelming majority of American students could not care less what the NSA is or does. Occasionally a college or university has roused itself to protest the ideologues — by withdrawing from membership in NSA. But then, in a couple of years, the rebels having graduated, the lure of bureaucracy usually works to reclaim the college's membership.

What is now being proposed — everything from the dissolution of the NSA to a whole lot of legislation aimed at the generic evil of CIA money diffusing out thru the capillaries of the tame foundations in order to support indigenous activities congenial to the CIA's directors — is not all of it unsound. But as regards the NSA itself, the easiest and most welcome reform would be for it to abjure political bigthinking in the name of American college students, and limit itself to what it was primarily designed to be — a service organization for the nation's students.